

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02
ORM-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SCA-01 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 VO-03
INSE-00 /120 W
-----090313 190420Z /21

R 182230Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4483
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES
OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION

REF: STATE 190638

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL PARA 11, DCM CALLED AUGUST 18 ON

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION R. M. TAIT. DCM MADE SPECIFIC POINTS AS INSTRUCTED, AND DREW ON CONTENTS REFTEL FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF WHAT CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE AND ARE DOING TO RESOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEM, GOC POSITION EMERGED AS FOLLOWS.

2. TAIT NOTED THAT SELECTIVITY HAS BEEN HALLMARK OF CANADIAN IMMIGRATION POLICY AND, IN HIS VIEW, SUCH APPROACH HAS MADE IT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE (IN LIGHT OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES) FOR GOC TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY REFUGEES AS IT HAS. AS ANOTHER ADVANTAGEOUS RESULT, TAIT POINTED TO CANADIAN EXPERIENCE WITH INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHICH, IN TERMS OF THEIR BEING ABLE TO FIND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, HAS BEEN EVEN BETTER THAN THAT OF US, THOUGH FACT IS NOT SURPRISING SINCE APPROXIMATELY HALF OF REFUGEES HAVE SETTLED IN QUEBEC PROVINCE, WHERE THOSE WHO ARE FRANCOPHONE HAVE NO LANGUAGE PROBLEM.

3. WITH RESPECT TO RECENT GOC DECISION TO ADMIT ADDITIONAL 450, TAIT ESTIMATED THESE SLOTS WILL BE USED UP WITHIN APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH NOTIFICATION TO UNHCR HAD BEEN IN TERMS OF SLOTS, DETERMINING FACTOR IN MINDS OF MANY CABINET MEMBERS IS AMOUNT OF RESETTLEMENT FUNDS, WHICH ALL REFUGEES REQUIRE IN SOME MEASURE. TAIT CONCLUDED THAT "SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFORT" WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR CABINET TO APPROVE AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, CABINET MIGHT BE INFLUENCED BY RESPONSES WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENTS MAKE TO USG ROUND OF REQUESTS, AND TAIT ASKED THAT WE INFORM HIM WHEN WE HAVE SUCH INFORMATION IN HAND.

4. TAIT WAS SKEPTICAL THAT MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY QUOTA SYSTEM WOULD TRACK WITH GOC IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES NOTED ABOVE, OR EVEN IF ADOPTED, THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN ANY INCREASE IN TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHICH CANADA WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE DCM'S POINT THAT QUOTA SYSTEM WOULD CONTRIBUTE ELEMENT OF STABILITY AND ORDERLINESS IN COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO DEAL WITH REFUGEE PROBLEM, AND AGREED TO STUDY PROPOSAL FURTHER.

5. TAIT STATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH MINISTERS, AND PARTICULARLY TO IMPRESS UPON THEM URGENCY AND GRAVITY OF REFUGEE PROBLEM, IF WE COULD SUPPLY SUMMARY DATA ON HOW REFUGEE PROBLEM HAS INTENSIFIED OVER PAST 18 MONTHS. PERCEPTION OF MOST CANADIANS IS OF ENORMOUS EXODUS IN SPRING 1975 SLOWING SUBSEQUENTLY TO MERE TRICKLE. IF TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES HAS BEEN BALLOONING, IT WOULD

BE HELPFUL TO HAVE DATA WHICH DEMONSTRATE THAT FACT.

6. COMMENT: TAIT DID NOT EVIDENCE MUCH HOPE FOR EARLY OR
GENEROUS RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE. FURTHER ARGUMENTATION
AND INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT, ALONG LINES HE REQUESTED,
WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HELPFUL, HOWEVER. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA07539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770299-0629
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770849/aaaabovk.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b3078b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b3078b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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